**Checking price rise of coal**

3036. DR. D. VENKATESWAR RAO: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for privatisation of coal mines as announced earlier;

(b) whether coal prices are likely to shoot up on that account; and

(c) the steps proposed to check rise in the price of coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) The reasons for privatisation of coal mines are:—

(i) to cover the ever increasing gap between demand and supply of coal;

(ii) to augment investments in coal mining which are presently dependent on Government investment alone; and

(iii) to improve overall efficiency of the coal industry through competition.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The Government decision to privatise coal mines and deregulation of coking coal and A,B,C & D grades of non-coking coal coupled with the lowering of import tariffs on import of coking coal and non-coking coal will lead to the emergence of a competitive market for coal in India. Further the imported coal is also not subject to payment of any royalty. These will have its beneficial effect to the consumer on the pricing of coal.

**Supply of coal to Thermal Power Stations in Punjab**

3037. SHRI MOHINDAR SINGH KALYAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to implement any legal provisions to provide quality and quantity of coal supply to the Thermal Power Stations in the State of Punjab;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (d) Coal India Limited (CIL) has prepared a model coal supply agreement to be entered into with all power houses including those of Punjab. But the issue of joint sampling of coal at loading end is yet to be resolved. The power houses are not willing to accept the decision of the Government and the findings of the Court of Law to jointly conduct sampling of coal at the loading end. Coal India Limited is, however, pursuing the matter for finalising the legally enforceable contracts with the thermal power stations in the country including that of Punjab for supply of coal *inter-alia* covering the quantity and quality of coal.

**Joint sampling of coal for power project**

3038. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether joint sampling of coal for power stations was being carried out at the power station end as agreed to and implemented under various memorandum of understanding signed by the State Electricity Boards with Coal India Ltd.;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this practice has been changed unilaterally by Coal India Ltd. placing the State Electricity Boards in an awkward position because of the poor quality of coal resulting thereby in more consumption of coal by the State Electricity Boards;

(c) if so, the reasons for changing the practice of joint sampling; and

(d) the amount under dispute by the SEBs with Coal India Ltd. as a result thereof and the time by when the earlier practice of joint sampling of coal at power station end will be resumed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL: (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Upto 1986, assessment of quality of coal supplies to power houses was being undertaken through sampling either at the loading end or at the power station end as mutually agreed upon by supplier and the consumers.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The decision to carry out joint sampling at the loading end was taken by the Government keeping in view all the relevant aspects. Specific consumption of coal by power houses has been showing a downward trend over the years.

(d) The amount under dispute by the State Electricity Boards with Coal India Limited on quality ground has been of the order of about Rs. 880 crores (Provisional) as on 31.3.1997.

In keeping with world-wide commercial practice, the loading end is the logical one for ascertaining the quality and quantity of coal despatches to consumers. This is also in accordance with the Sale of Goods Act, 1930.

**Hike in prices of power grade coal by CIL**

3039. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times decisions have been taken to hike the prices of power grade coal by the Coal India Ltd. (CIL) through Administrative orders during the last three years;

(b) the details of the price hike on each time during the above period;

(c) whether the CIL is considering to hike prices of power grade coal further; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) The prices of power grade coal viz. D,E,F & G were last fixed by the Central Government on 16.6.1994. In respect of Western Coalfields Ltd. only, the prices of these grades of coal were enhanced to the level of the grade prices of Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. w.e.f. 22.3.96 as notified in June '94. Subsequent to deregulation of pricing of 'D' grade of non-coking coal w.e.f. 12.3.97 and allowing CIL to fix the prices of E,F & G grades of non-coking coal w.e.f. 13.3.97. Coal India Limited have fixed the prices of these grades of coal on 31.3.97.

(b) The details of the prices of these grades of coal as notified by the Government on 16.6.94 and the prices fixed by CIL on 31.3.97 are given in the statement (*See* below).

(c) and (d) CIL has been authorised to revise the prices of E,F & G grades of coal once in six months upto 1st January, 2000 in accordance with an escalation formula contained in the 1987 report of BICP. As far as pricing of 'D' grade of coal is concerned CIL is competent to fix it in relation to the market prices after its deregulation w.e.f. 12.3.97.

**Statement**

(Rs. per tonne)

| Grade | ROM Prices of coal as fixed on 16.6.94 | ROM Prices of coal for ECL CCL & BCCL fixed on 31.3.97 | ROM Price of coal for ECL (RajMahal project) fixed on 31.3.97 | ROM Prices of coal for MCL as fixed on 31.3.97 | ROM Prices of coal for WCL as fixed on 31.3.97 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| D | 406.00 | 524.00 | 667.00 | 504.00 | 754.00 |
| E | 322.00 | 416.00 | 559.00 | 400.00 | 627.00 |
| F | 257.00 | 332.00 | 475.00 | 319.00 | 523.00 |
| G | 183.00 | 237.00 | 380.00 | 227.00 | 304.00 |

**ऊर्जा क्षेत्र में कोयले के इस्तेमाल में कमी होना**

3040. **श्री राम जेठमलानी:** क्या कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि वर्ष 1975 में देश में 62% ऊर्जा की आवश्यकता कोयले द्वारा पूरी की जाती थी;

(ख) यदि नहीं, तो इस संबंध में सरकार का आकलन क्या है;

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि वर्ष 1995 तक देश में केवल 32% ऊर्जा संबंधी आवश्यकता की पूर्ति कोयले से होती थी;